The Arizona Beehive
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Interfaith Outreach Volunteers Serve Valley Immigrants

BROUGHT BY THE HAND OF THE LORD

By Merry Gordon
The Arizona Beehive

2 Nephi 1:5 prophesies of a land of liberty: "Yea, the Lord hath covenanted this land unto me, and to my children forever, and also all those who should be led out of other countries by the hand of the Lord."

And those others come. They come from Jordan. From Mexico. Syria. China. Somalia. A list of nations represented by the Church's Immigrant Services Initiative reads like a score of colorful passport stamps.

And just as diverse as the immigrants they serve are a group of passionate volunteers from both within and outside of the Church.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Immigrant Services Initiative provides a wide variety of services to immigrants, including cultural adaptation classes and legal clinics. These services are provided at the Church's Welcome Centers, and through partnerships with other multicultural and spiritual centers in the Valley. Currently, Arizona's only Welcome Center is in Mesa, but plans for expansion are on the table.

Photo by Robin Finlinson

Noemi Cruz, Rehana Mohamed, and Susan Whetten-Udall have found friendship through service.

Sister Susan Whetten-Udall is a Volunteer Services Coordinator at the Mesa Welcome Center. The daughter of an immigrant, she served a Pathway mission and began an ESL program in the Valley. She loves watching lives improve as the result of the work being done.

"The trajectory of a life can change," she says, "and it can impact generations perpetually."

In the Greater Phoenix Area, affiliations with volunteers from across all faiths and walks of life bring their time and talent to people in need. These site partnerships include Arizona State University's

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Photo by Robin Finlinson

(from left to right) Noemi Cruz, Ruth Stamp-Shepard, Susan Whetten-Udall, Adam Akkad, Norma Chavez and Nora Castañeda all volunteer within the immigrant and refugee community.

Beus Center for Law and Society, the Islamic Community Center of Tempe, and the Somali American United Council Office in Phoenix.

Immigrant and refugee populations face myriad challenges in adapting to their new lives. Such challenges may come as issues of distance or cost. Language barriers and differences in social norms can make getting information problematic, but the volunteers who serve Arizona's immigrant community offer solutions, motivation and hope.

One volunteer, Sister Norma Chavez, understands the drive of the immigrant community she teaches—and she understands their roadblocks as well.

Chavez, who didn't learn English until she got to school, remembers "being ostracized, being set aside."

She worked as a child doing back-breaking field labor in California. As a girl, she had one dream: to attend UCLA, which she did. After an elementary teaching career that spanned more than four decades and touched the lives of many immigrants, Sister Chavez was well positioned to take over as the Immigrant Services Center Volunteer Coordinator at the Islamic Community Center site this past March.

Just like her elementary students, "these [immigrants and refugees] have become mine in my heart," Chavez says.

Sister Chavez works with Ahmad Odeh, current president of ASU's US UNITED (Undertake Natural Integration to Endorse Diversity), and incoming president Adam Akkad.

With his fair skin and blond hair, Akkad says, some people are surprised to find out that the U.S.-born college student is ethnically Syrian, a Muslim who spent much of his life in Saudi Arabia and Dubai. This is one of many misconceptions he is happy to dispel as a volunteer for the program.

"The refugees that are coming from overseas aren't people that are different from us in any way—it's just their lives got completely turned upside down, and now they're here."

Fallacies that immigrants are "not as educated, not as skillful, not as functional" are unfortunate, says Akkad. "In reality, we're all people."

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What's The Buzz?

What if their story were my story? In her talk entitled "I Was a Stranger" delivered at the April 2016 General Women's Session of General Conference, Sister Linda K. Burton asks this very question after personally interacting with a few of the world's estimated 60 million refugees. A perspective adjustment, for sure.

Our decision to feature a two-part story (June 2018 and August 2018 issues) on assisting immigrants in our area comes with acknowledgement that our country and communities are currently fraught with divisiveness, some of which revolves around how we welcome, treat and consider non-citizens. One organization that has not shied away from this issue, and in fact has embraced it, is The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. (You know, the Mormons!) Our June issue cover story features work being done on behalf of immigrant families through The Church's Immigrant Services Initiative, and other faith-based services working with our church and its members.

As Latter-day Saints, we've been counselled well and recently on how to approach this issue. In a talk given in the April 2016 General Conference titled "Refuge from the Storm," Elder Patrick Kearon Of the Seventy remarked, "There are highly charged arguments in governments and across society regarding what the definition of a refugee is and what should be done to assist (or expel) the refugees. My remarks are not intended in any way to form part of that heated discussion, nor to comment on immigration policy, but rather to focus on the people who have been driven from their homes and their countries by wars that they had no hand in starting." This is the exact attitude with which we present our cover story.

"The Savior knows how it feels to be a refugee," explains Elder Kearon. "He was one. As a young child, Jesus and His family fled to Egypt to escape the murderous swords of Herod. And at various points in His ministry, Jesus found Himself threatened and His life in danger, ultimately submitting to the designs of evil men who had plotted His death. Perhaps, then, it is all the more remarkable to us that He repeatedly taught us to love one another, to love as He loves, to love our neighbor as ourselves."

May we all continue to work to love one another as He loves us, each of his children, in whatever circumstances others find themselves.

Michael O'Brien
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Sister Noemi Cruz, Assistant Volunteer Coordinator, was born in Mexico. She had experience in language immersion through her children's school, and volunteering seemed like a natural outgrowth of her personal background and love for others.

"I love to teach and I love to serve," she says. "Wherever God needs me, I'm there." Her volunteer work began with the simple action of setting up tables, then moved to crafts and tutoring.

Her eyes fill with tears as she talks about helping one special needs immigrant child. "I feel that I've done something worthwhile for this child and his family," she says.

Another volunteer, Rehana Mohamed, serves with Helping Hands and Muslims for Humanity. She eventually found herself partnering with the Mesa Welcome Center, where over 100 people get help every week. Originally from India, Mohamed worked in the tech sector before finding her passion for helping immigrants.

Mohamed sees herself in the diverse faces of the people she serves. "They're people like us," she says. "We have to love each other. We have to be humble and sincere to help them."

At the Somali American United Council offices are Sister Ruth Stamp-Shepard, a Jamaican immigrant herself, and Sister Nora Castañeda, the Special Projects Director of Language Acquisition in the Creighton School District.

Sister Stamp-Shepard remembers being teased as a child for her accent—not by children, who were sympathetic, but by adults. "If we can remember to become like a child, to be open, to be loving, unconditionally, things would go so much smoother," she says. Of her experience with immigrants and refugees, she exudes positivity and warmth:

> "They are dedicated. They love this country. They appreciate the freedoms we enjoy . . . the heart is the same."

Photo by Robin Finlinson.

Ruth Stamp-Shepard hugs a fellow volunteer at the Somali United Council of Arizona while Dr. Mohamed Ali Abukar looks on.

Sister Castañeda is adamant about how her volunteer work has changed her views on service: "Charity and love go beyond putting together a packet of items to give away."

Work at the Somali American United Council offices is headed by Dr. Mohamed Ali Abukar, President and CEO. Dr. Abukar, now an adjunct

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A group of Church-service missionaries and volunteers gathered for a photo at a holiday party at the Mesa Welcome Center. **Photo by Jill Adair.**

professor at Utah State University and Grand Canyon University who received political asylum from the United States government during the Somali Civil War, had witnessed the destructive tribalism in his home country.

When he founded his nonprofit to support Somali immigrants, he founded it upon three maxims: his foundation would not import the disease of divisiveness from Somali, it would work to heal wounds, and everyone would work on a volunteer basis—without grants or outside help—to ensure commitment.

Since then, the Somali American United Council has grown in scope and service, aiding immigrants from all nations in its programs. It boasts an ethnically diverse board as well.

Dr. Abukar is emphatic about the value immigrants bring to a community: "We all gain from the strength and courage of millions who fled their homes for freedom and opportunity."

Sometimes Church members are hesitant to get involved with immigrant and refugee programs. Sister Ruth Stamp-Shepard is quick to respond when people ask her why she serves the immigrant community. "We do that because they are our brothers and sisters," she says. "We need to be open, we need to be loving, and we need to see them as individuals."

Indeed, Sister Susan Whetten-Udall sees the hand of God in this immigrant influx, reminding all who cross her path of 2 Nephi 1:6:

> "... there shall none come into this land save they shall be brought by the hand of the Lord."

To get involved, please visit the Church's Mesa Welcome Center at 830 E. 2nd Avenue in Mesa, the Islamic Community Center of Tempe at 131 E 6th St in Tempe, or the Somali American United Council at 2425 E Thomas Road #11 in Phoenix.

Look for next month's cover story, where we'll detail the type of services provided by these volunteer organizations and share the personal stories of immigrants and refugees who benefit from them.

Photo by Jill Adair.

Ghada Iesa (at left), Church Service Missionary Susan Whetten-Udall, and Rehana Mohamed have become friends at the Mesa Welcome Center.

> "Yea, the Lord hath covenanted this land unto me, and to my children forever, and also all those who should be led out of other countries by the hand of the Lord."
>
> **2 Nephi 1:5**

Photo by Jill Adair.

Volunteer Gwyn Nichols (at left) helps Ghada Iesa with her English reading at the Mesa Welcome Center.

Photo by Jill Adair.

Sameh Asfour learns to read English with tutor and LDS Church-service missionary Ruth Stamp-Shepard. His sons joined him after activities in an adjoining room for children.

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LOCAL LDS FAMOUS Family Names

The East Phoenix Valley is replete with LDS pioneer heritage. The names of pioneer families adorn our streets, buildings and schools.

We often casually pass by a geographic location without considering the history of the family for which the location was named, or why the family name was used. The inquiring minds of Arizona Beehive readers want to know!

In each issue we now present the history of one "famous" Mormon family name. We hope you enjoy learning about these families, and encourage you to reach out to The Arizona Beehive with ideas for families to feature in the series.

The LeSueur Family

By Cecily Markland Condie
The Arizona Beehive

Early Arizona pioneers, the LeSueur family contributed much to the state's business development and growth of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Their legacy began years before in Jersey, one of Europe's Channel Islands. There, John and Caroline LeGresley LeSueur joined the Church, baptized by William C. Dunbar. Future Church President John Taylor, then an apostle, visited Jersey and dined in the LeSueur home. When they had a son on December 4, 1852, they named him John Taylor LeSueur.

In 1855, the LeSueurs, their four daughters and toddler son emigrated to America to join Church members in Utah. Their last child, William Francis, was born in Bountiful in 1856.

After her husband died in November 1862 aged 49, Caroline, their mother, moved the family to Montpelier, Idaho, near where her daughter, Jane, and husband, John Davis, were living. There, John T. and Will, at only 9 and 6, took on many of the duties of running the farm.

In 1876, John married Geneva Casto and, in 1878, William married Anner Mari Bingham. Encouraged by their sister, Caroline, and her husband, Charles Mallory, who moved to Arizona with the first group of pioneers, John T. and William, in a company of 11 families, left for Arizona October 3, 1878.

They arrived with the Second Mesa Company in January 1879, where they built Mesa's first adobe house, a two-room dwelling on the comer of First Avenue and Sirrine Street.

In 1880, "somewhat discouraged with the prospects" in Mesa, John and William moved their families to St. Johns.

Will spent the rest his life in eastern Arizona, moving to Springerville in 1891 and Eagar in 1913, to open new Arizona Cooperative Mercantile Institution (ACMI) stores.

John stayed for 25 years, managing St. Johns Cooperative Mercantile, then investing in the sheep business, St. Johns Drug Store, St. Johns Herald, and other businesses. He served as Justice of the Peace, County Treasurer, County School Superintendent and in the legislature.

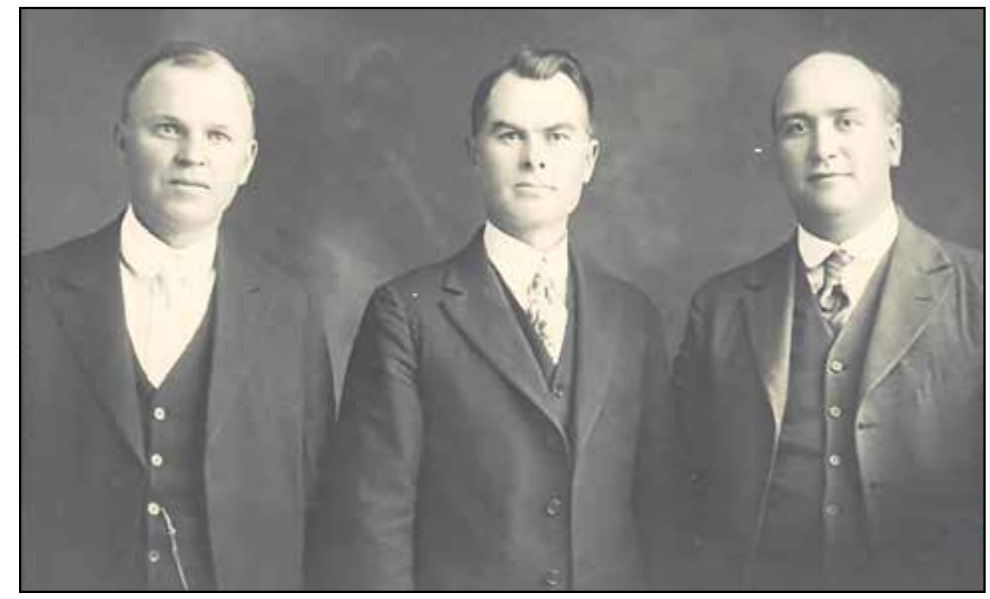
In 1905, when President Joseph F. Smith called him to preside over the Maricopa Stake, he moved back to Mesa. He continued as a successful businessman, running a dry goods store and grocery business. He served on Mesa High School's building and finance committee, as the Arizona Temple building committee treasurer and was Mesa's first Mayor from 1912-14.

John was released as Maricopa Stake President in 1912, and President Smith called his son, James Warren LeSueur, in his stead. James went on to serve 15 years. He had previously served a mission to Jersey, the land of his ancestors, where he traced his family line back several generations. Later, James served as a counselor to the first Mesa Temple president, David King Udall.

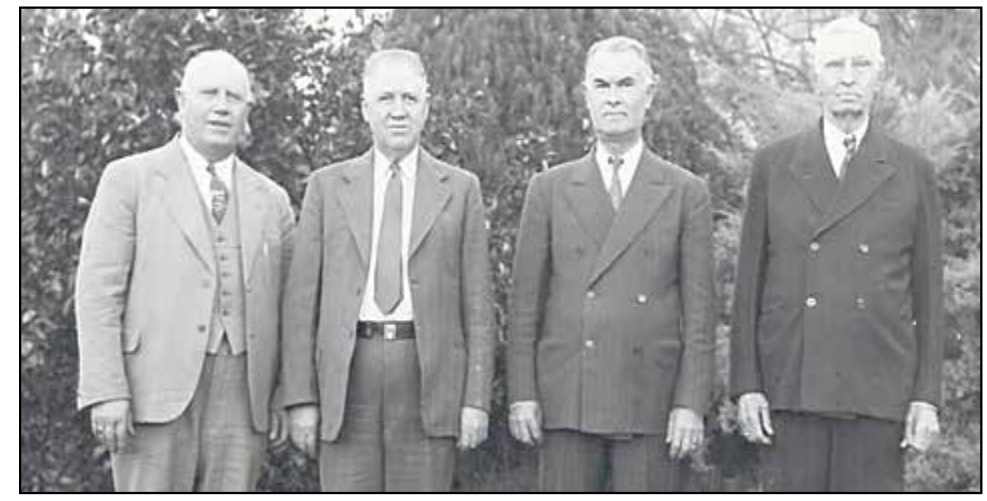
In the 1920s, the LeSueur family donated their home for the East Valley's first hospital.

Descendants of John Taylor LeSueur still living in the Mesa area include Margaret Steverson, daughter of James LeSueur; Warren, owner of LeSueur Car Company, and David, who served as the first Gilbert Temple president; and descendants of William include, Don, owner of Benchmark Interiors and Carl; and many children and grandchildren.

James Warren LeSueur, son of Arizona pioneer, John Taylor, and his wife, Anna Anderson LeSueur, are pictured in front of their Mesa home, which still stands at 2nd Avenue and Hibbert. In the background, on the right, is their daughter, Margaret Steverson, who still lives in Mesa.



James Warren LeSueur (center), son of early Mesa pioneer John Taylor LeSueur, served as Maricopa Stake President for 15 years, with O. S. Stapley (left) and John Cummard (right) as his counselors.



John Taylor LeSueur (far right) was called by Joseph F. Smith as the fourth Stake President of the Maricopa Stake. He was succeeded by (second from right to left) his son, James W. LeSueur, who served 15 years, followed by James Robert ("J. R.") Price, and then Lo Wright, who was serving as the Maricopa Stake President at the time this picture was taken.

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A True Labor of Love – The Zounds Story

By Katherine Ogden
The Arizona Beehive

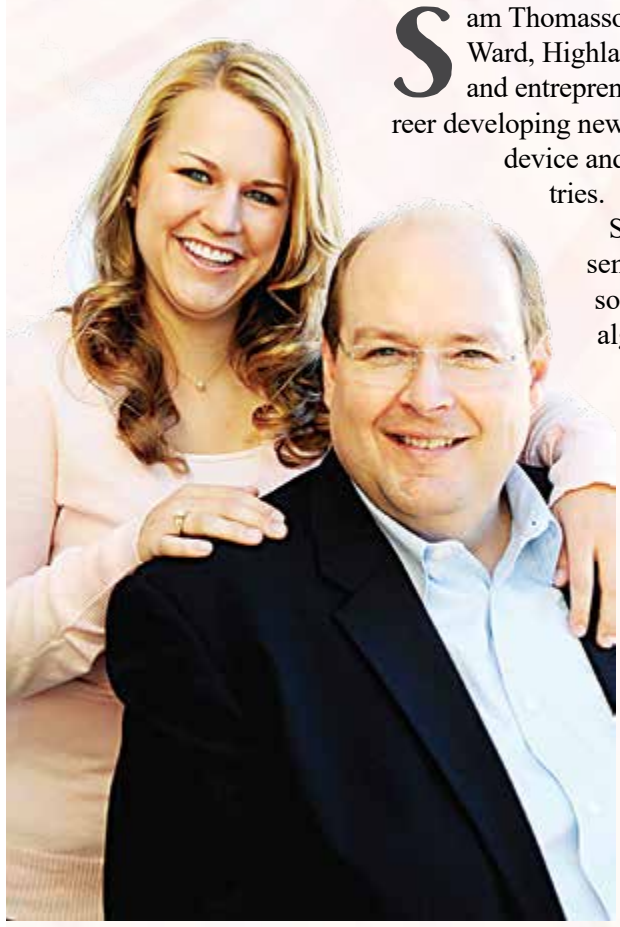

Photo courtesy of LaWana Thomasson

Zounds creator, Sam Thomasson and his daughter Kate.

Sam Thomasson, of Gilbert's Higley Groves Ward, Highland West Stake, is an engineer and entrepreneur who has spent his career developing new technologies in the medical device and consumer electronics industries.

Sam created high-performance semiconductor chips and related software with low power usage algorithms that dramatically improve the voice and sound quality in cell phones, video phones, desktop phones, conference call phones and automotive communication systems.

Sam is also the father of a hearing-impaired daughter and has witnessed the problems associated with today's traditional hearing aids.

"It started when Kate ran a high fever around the age of 12 months old," says Kate's mother, LaWana Thomasson. After noticing changes in her language and demeanor, they discovered she had lost most of her hearing due to the illness. Extensive testing revealed that Kate's severe hearing loss was permanent and could not be corrected.

Like other fathers, Sam would do anything for his daughter, especially if it might impact her quality of life. This devotion, coupled with Kate's special need, changed her life and also the course of his career, while at the same time changing and blessing the lives of many people whom he has never met.

As a toddler, Kate would take to hiding her hearing aids: in vases, under her bed and in the VCR.

"She actually 'hid' them in the toilet one day," says LaWana, "and I grabbed them just before they disappeared."

Sam saw how it affected his daughter's speech, her capacity to hear in noisy environments, and even her ability to hug. When her parents would hug her close, Kate's hearing aids began to squeal, causing her pain, and Kate began "hugging" by pressing her forehead against the other person's chest.

Sam promised his daughter that he would develop a hearing aid to address the key problems common with other hearing aids. Zounds' breakthrough technology is the fulfillment of a father's promise to his daughter and the solution for dissatisfied hearing aid users around the world.

"This speaker goes down the ear canal," says Sam. "There are no tubes like traditional hearing aids have." "This started out as a goal to help my own daughter," says Sam. "With that achieved, my focus has partnered with the Lions Club to provide hearing aids to those who are indigent."

The Lions Club recently awarded him the Helen Keller Knight of the Blind Award for his outstanding support of their Sight and Hearing Foundation. He has also been the recipient of the U.S. Congressional Healthcare Heroes Award for innovation and was named Innovator of the Year by Phoenix Business Journal.

You can find more information about Zounds by visiting zoundshearing.com or by calling (480)-939-7062.

Close to the Heart

Family Locket Blog Helps Readers Keep Connected With Their Ancestors

By Cecily Markland Condie
The Arizona Beehive

Having experienced life-changing benefits of family history, a mother/daughter team now share helpful how-to's through a popular blog and website, regular presentations, a book about genealogy research and more.

A resident of Vail, Arizona, and member of the Corona Ward, Tucson South Stake, Nicole Dyer, the daughter half of the team, learned to love family history as a teenager.

Her mom, Diana Elder of Highland, Utah, was the Stake Young Women's President when Nicole participated in her first Young Women in Excellence.

"The theme was 'Turn the Hearts,'" Nicole says, "and my mom helped me chose a project."

Nicole worked to find a female ancestor that represented each of the Young Women values, then wrote a story about each one. "I felt like I had a lot of wonderful women behind me who were pulling for me and wanted me to be wonderful too."

When Nicole was 16, her family moved to another state, and "then I didn't make the volleyball team at the new high school. It was the perfect time to pick up a hobby," she says. She poured herself into family history.

A few years later, after marrying Lance Dyer and moving to the Tucson area, family history again took center stage. "I had been called to be ward family history consultant," Nicole explains, and her mother had the same calling in her Utah ward.

Wanting to pass along research tips, suggestions for family history activities and to write about finding ancestors, they created their blog and website. "We decided to call it Family Locket," Nicole says. "We wanted something that would represent how much we love our ancestors and want to keep them close to our heart and really connect with them." Since then, the mother and daughter have continued to perfect their skills, as they help others.

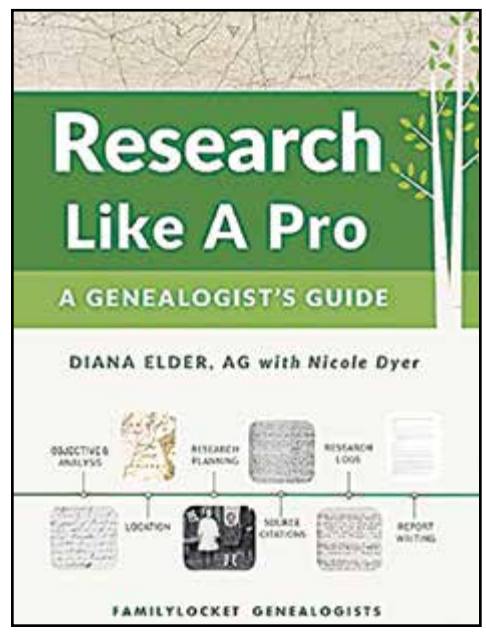

Photo courtesy Nicole Dyer

Research Like a Pro: A Genealogist's Guide **was co-authored by bloggers Diana Elder and her daughter, Nicole Dyer.**

Diana, who has a bachelor's degree in education and 14 years of research experience, spent two years of intense work and study to become a credentialed genealogist and now works nearly full time as a researcher and coach. "Teaching youth and adults how to find their family is very rewarding," Diana says.

Nicole, too, has extended her experience, volunteering at the Pima County Genealogy Society as a steering committee member and at the Tucson Family History Center, speaking regularly at genealogy conferences and events, and, now, like her mom, is pursuing genealogy accreditation.

Nicole says, "I benefitted so much as a teen. I just want to help others—especially young people—realize what is possible, to help others find their ancestors and find joy in doing it."

Photo by Debbie Gregg

At the RootsTech conference in Salt Lake, the mother/daughter blogging team of Nicole Dyer (left) and Diana Elder (right) enjoy networking with other genealogists and learning more that they can pass on to others via their blog, The Family Locket.

Their co-authored Research Like a Pro: A Genealogist's Guide is available on Amazon as an ebook and will soon be available in paperback.

To sign up for the Family Locket blog, visit www.FamilyLocket.com.

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Charlene Taylor

May 27, 1939 – April 19, 2018

Long-time Las Vegas resident and Arizona Beehive Founder, Charlene Flora Belknap Taylor, 78, passed away peacefully, surrounded by her entire family, after a rapid decline resulting from pneumonia. Charlene was born to Samuel Logan Belknap, Jr. and Flora Russell Walker Belknap on May 27, 1939 in Los Angeles, California.

She attended Transfiguration Parochial School and graduated from Dorsey High School in 1957. In November 1956 while on a family trip to Las Vegas, Charlene met her future husband, Richard Blackburn Taylor, General Manager of the Hacienda Hotel, where her family was staying on vacation.

The couple married June 23, 1957 and made their home in Las Vegas before moving to Palm Springs. In 1966 they returned to Las Vegas and developed strong ties to the Latter-day Saint and Mt. Charleston communities.

A convert to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS), Charlene was a faithful member devoted to assisting young women in recognizing their divine nature and individual worth. For 17 years, she served in the Young Women's program as a teacher, President, and Stake Young Women's President. Her affinity for young women included service to unwed mothers and struggling youth, whom she nurtured, supported, and encouraged throughout her life.

In the early 1970's, she founded the 9th Ward newsletter as a project that united the ward members and provided information regarding ward news and activities. Shortly thereafter, she and her husband expanded their publishing endeavors to include a regional newspaper serving the LDS community called "The Beehive: The Good News Newspaper." She was the paper's photographer, reporter, writer, editor-in-chief, and publisher for many years. Charlene and Richard also founded and managed Metro Alarm Company in 1974 and upon retirement 11 years later, sold to Alarmco.

Known to many as "Sister Taylor," Charlene is best defined by a life devoted to sincerely loving and serving others. All those who have known her would say that her finest quality was her genuine interest in the wellbeing of anyone who crossed her path. She was unwaveringly supportive, interested, and engaged in the wellbeing of others. Her love of God, testimony of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ, and example of kindness and generosity has blessed the lives of thousands of individuals. Those who know her best will say there is no finer example of a Christ-centered life of service.

She often shared that her greatest source of pride was her four "little chickadees," grandchildren, extended family, and those who called Grandma T the only "mom" or "grandma" they had ever known. She loved all people with her whole heart, attending various activities, engaging and inquiring about their interests, sending cards with handwritten messages, giving just the right kinds of gifts, and, of course, taking pictures at every opportunity. She was the beloved matriarch of the Taylor family.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Samuel and Flora Belknap, and her husband, Richard Taylor. She is survived by her brother, Carl Logan Belknap (Esther), children, Tamara, Russell (Amie) Taylor, Tina Taylor, Ronald (Dayleen) Taylor, 11 grandchildren (Mia; Shane, Malea, Jake; Logan; Andrew, Brandon, Tiffany, Brianna Tenille, Lauren, Thomas, and 1 great grandchild, Emma). She also adored her informally-adopted daughter, Cindy Jenkins, and her children John, Shelby, William, Regan, and Madison, as well as her adopted Hmong Family, Kham and her eight children.

Visitation was 8:30-9:30 am, Saturday, April 28th, followed by a memorial service in celebration of her life at 10:00, both at the LDS Chapel located at 3400 W. Charleston Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89102. Burial took place shortly thereafter at Palm Memorial Park-Northwest, 6701 N. Jones Blvd.

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LOCAL Family Fun!

Five Great Activities for Under $25 Per Person!

By Heather Kidder
The Arizona Beehive

Hot Summer Family Activities

Welcome summer! Higher temperatures are coming in fast, so these offerings focus on some last-chance outdoor activities and other air-conditioned escapes. Find some time to experience a Bible museum tucked away in a hotel lobby, take a tour of a local dairy farm to meet the animals, swing a baseball bat, view some art, or take your pup for a walk in the park!

#1

AZ Grip-N-Rip

If Spring Training inspired your family, take them out to the batting cages! AZ Grip-N-Rip is an indoor facility in Queen Creek. Prices vary depending on the activity and length of time, offering an escape that won't break the budget in small doses. This is an awesome way to keep kids active during a sweltering day.

183955 186th Way. Suite # 104. Queen Creek.

(480)545-4747

15 mins in batting cages/$15
30 mins in batting cages/$25

#2

Pocket Park for Pups

If you're near Chandler, or looking for something new, this small dog park is a great place to explore. It is open daily 7am until 10pm, 12noon until 10pm on Tuesdays. Take some time during an open evening to get outside and let your pup meet some new friends.

22526 S. Ellsworth Rd. Queen Creek.

QueenCreek.org

Free!

#3

Vision Gallery

This indoor art gallery often holds events and activities for kids! Admission is free, and the hot summers can be a wonderful time to help kids (and yourself) appreciate the time and detail that is put into each art piece. The gallery is open Monday – Friday, 10am - 5pm, 10am - 4pm on Saturdays. Exhibits change, so families can visit this gallery often.

10 E. Chicago St., Chandler.

(480)782-2695

Free!

Kids' activities may vary in price.

#4

Superstition Farm

Animals and local business wrapped up in one bundle! This dairy farm in Mesa offers tours and a petting zoo. A wonderful opportunity to teach kids about the hard work that goes into the dairy aisle at the grocery store. The petting zoo is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9am until 1pm.

3440 S. Hawes Rd., Mesa.

(602)432-6865

$3.75/Adults $2.75/Kids

This price does not include tax.

#5

Small Bible Museum

This museum is located in an unlikely facility: the lobby of a Hampton Inn & Suites. Give your kids impactful indoor experiences and head on over to this small museum in Goodyear. The lobby is open 24 hours for viewings of ancient and unique Bibles. Museum attendants are available Monday through Friday from 9am until 4pm to answer your questions. The museum has room for about eight people, and if you schedule a time, your group can reserve a 90-minute history lesson from a museum guide.

2000 N. Litchfield Rd., Goodyear.

(623)536-8614 • *Free!*

Superstition Farm — Photo by Superstition Farm

Old German Bible in Goodyear — Photo by TheBibleMuseum.com

AZ Grip-N-Rip — Photo by AZ Grip-N-Rip

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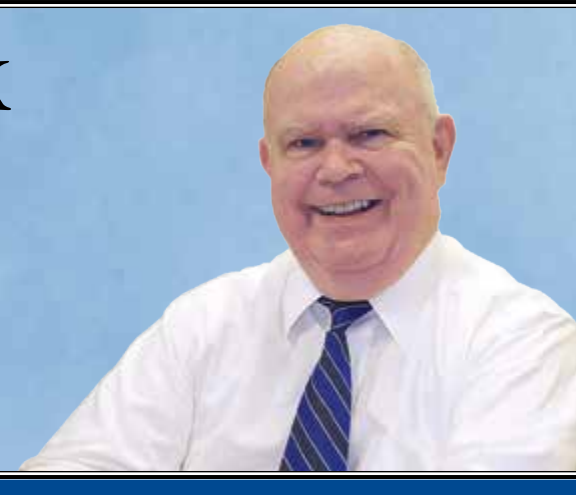

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Whether you placed a child recently or in the past, the emotional pain, loneliness, and depression can be debilitating. Most often friends, family, as well as many therapists, don't have the right words to offer comfort and support.

The significant gift of adoption is openly discussed and supported by those who are the recipients, while Birthmothers may be left without a support system, especially in the church. Come join an open, non-judge mental support group for LDS and non-LDS Birthmothers. A safe place to share your stories, gather support, and discuss issues surrounding this topic.

For more information, contact Barbara at

rainh2o1986@yahoo.com

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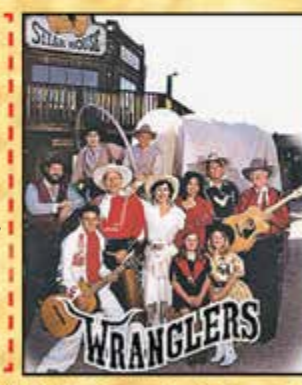

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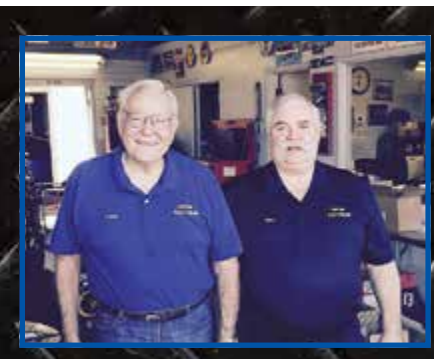

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A Treasure Chest of Offerings

The Pomeroy Building Hosts Generations Of Free Enterprise

By Cecily Markland Condie
The Arizona Beehive

It's a treasure chest of offerings—from office suites and store fronts in a prime location, a growing ed tech startup, and a retail store with must-haves for missionaries and anyone else looking for top quality apparel and accessories—all housed in a downtown Mesa building that, itself, has a story to tell.

"My great-great grandfather built the Pomeroy building in 1891, and my father, Wayne Pomeroy, opened his first store here in 1951," says Michel Fluhr, who began working with her father 40 years ago.

Photo by The Arizona Beehive
Every color of the rainbow.

"I still meet with him a couple of times each week. He's my mentor, my hero, my biggest cheerleader," she says.

Over the years, Pomeroy's Men's and Missionary Store has earned a reputation for providing a complete missionary outfitting experience, quality clothing at fair prices, and excellent service.

With luggage and backpacks, skirts and blouses, suits and white shirts in slim-fit and some big and tall sizes as well, shoes, white belts, pants and temple suits, and everything in between, Pomeroy's stands out as a one-stop shop and the place to go for missionary attire, baptismal and temple clothes for men, and wedding and business suits as well.

"We are known for our two-pant suits with added features, like stretch waistbands and reinforced crotch and pockets," Michel says. "Our easy-care skirts are lined and have pockets, a feature requested by our sister missionaries. We also carry overcoats and shoulder bags, popular items with the sisters."

Since 2006, Pomeroy's has been the only Arizona partner in an association of independent stores operating as "CTR Clothing."

"This has helped increase our buying power, so we are able to continue providing 'missionary-specific' features, quality and durability while keeping costs down," Michel says.

Pomeroy's has met the needs of tens of thousands—both elders and sisters—who have served all over the world. "We are now outfitting the third and fourth generations of missionaries," Michel says. "Families often comment how comfortable it is to come in, sit down and do all their shopping at once."

Doug Wimmer, Pomeroy's manager for the past 20 years, says, "I love helping the missionaries who come through here, but the most fun is educating our customers and explaining what we do and why."

Pomeroy's staff are all returned missionaries, well familiar with the quality and features missionaries need.

For example, white shirts are readily available elsewhere, "but they aren't going to look as nice or last as long as ours," Doug explains.

Impeccable customer service. Photo by The Arizona Beehive

"With the addition of Benedictine University and additional residential properties and innovative companies coming to downtown Mesa, we are excited about the future of this building," Michel notes. "Just this month, my daughter, Sarah Bevier, moved from a small upstairs suite to one of the large downstairs spaces as her ed tech startup company grows. Having multiple generations run businesses in this building is unique and something we are very proud of."

Pomeroy's, at 136 W Main Street in Mesa, is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. To reach them, call 480-833-0733, email pomeroysclothing@gmail.com, or visit www.pomeroysonline.com.

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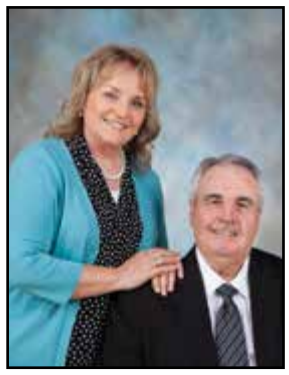

Barbra & Terrence Bradford
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Kalissa Cox
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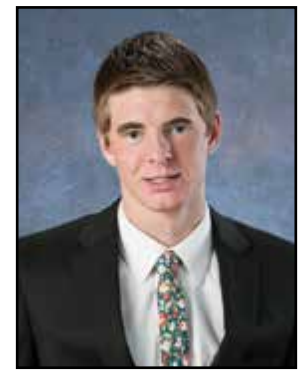
Chile Santiago West Mission



Brenton Schnepf
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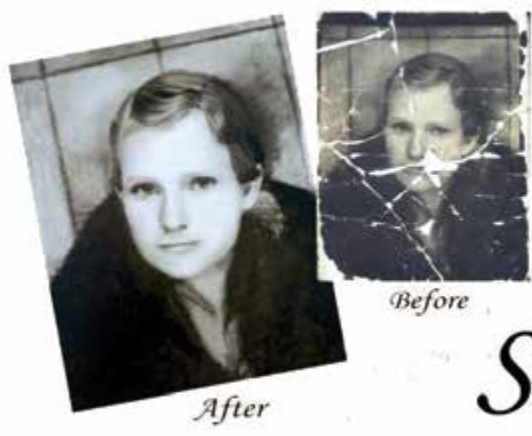

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PREP YOUR MISSIONARY

By Allison Beckert
The Arizona Beehive

Mission papers sent off? Great! Now what? There are plenty of things you can do to prepare spiritually, physically, emotionally, and financially while waiting for that all-important call packet. Check in with us for tips, tricks, and useful resources for preparing missionaries and their families.

What Will You Eat?

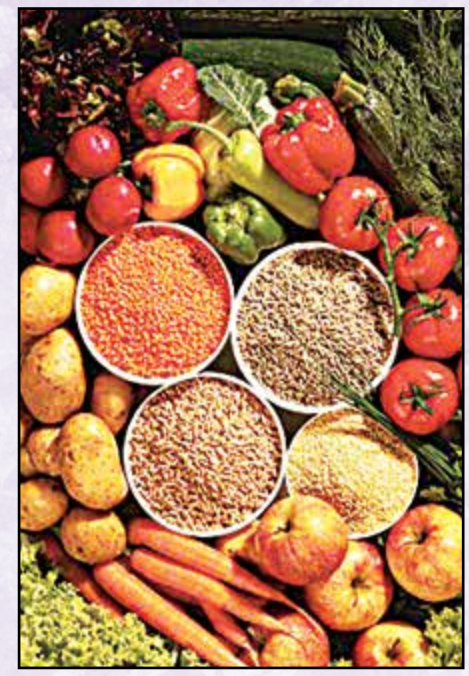
Foreign call or domestic, one question is sure to come up: "What will you eat while on your mission?" There may be excitement over southern BBQ, or terror at the unknown dishes ahead on a far-flung island. Every mission is unique, and missionaries should be prepared to feed themselves as much as possible with the cuisine of the area.

Cheap, healthful food, simply prepared, is a missionary's best resource. Take time now to learn some basic cooking techniques. Boil potatoes, steam vegetables, soak and cook shelf-stable beans. Learn to prepare staple foods and you can adapt these basic techniques to resources available in your area.

A basic spice 'cabinet' will makes all the difference with simple ingredients. Salt and pepper should be readily available in most areas. Garlic and onion are powerhouse flavors and can typically be found in several forms - powdered, granulated, diced, pickled, or fresh. Paprika, dried and powered mild red pepper, rounds out flavors of a dish. Dried or fresh herbs like parsley can add brightness to an otherwise bland dish. Add heat with your favorite hot sauce or a pinch of red chili flake.

A taste of home can make a mission apartment more welcoming. Most families have a go-to seasoning, something so commonly used, it's shocking to find out some people don't use it. These are often spice blends, like *Sazon Seasoning*, seasoned salt, *Mrs. Dash*, garlic salt, lemon pepper, or Worchester sauce. Pay attention at home and learn how to use it. You can bring a taste of home with a sprinkle on scrambled eggs, plain rice, a bit of chicken, or a bowl of beans.

Dinners with members are not a standard across the church. They're intended not to fill bellies, but to connect members and missionaries. Dinners are meant to ensure members are aware of and working on their ward mission plan and to help bishops meet members' needs. Some wards feed well, others not at all. In some countries, there will be no support of this kind and missionaries feed themselves. If you have received your call, reach out to others who have served there or who have lived there. Get an idea what to expect and what to avoid. If you haven't yet received your call, taking time to learn basic techniques to prepare a meal for yourself no matter where you will serve will help determine what you will eat!



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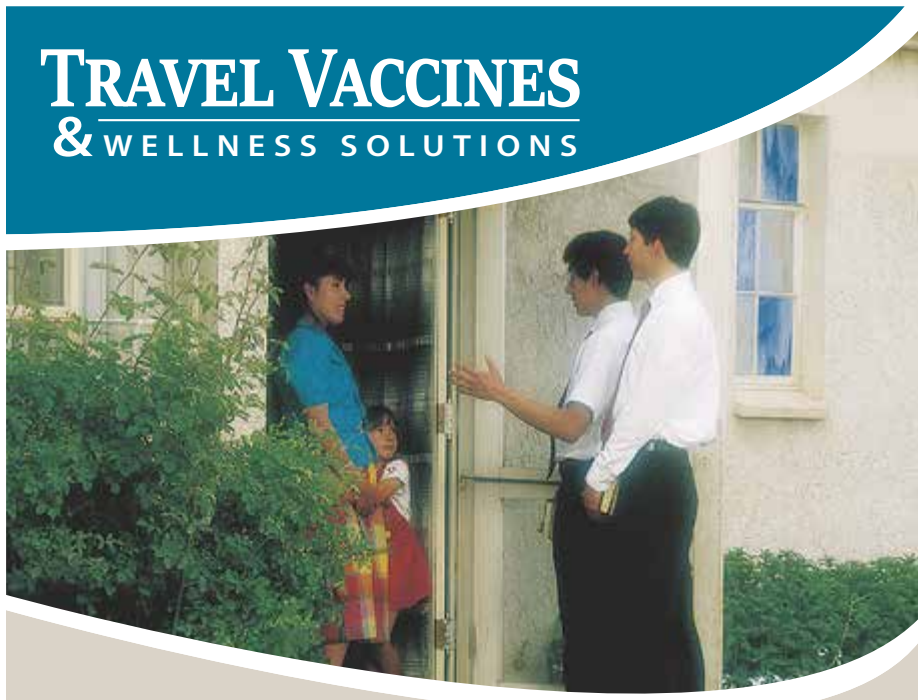

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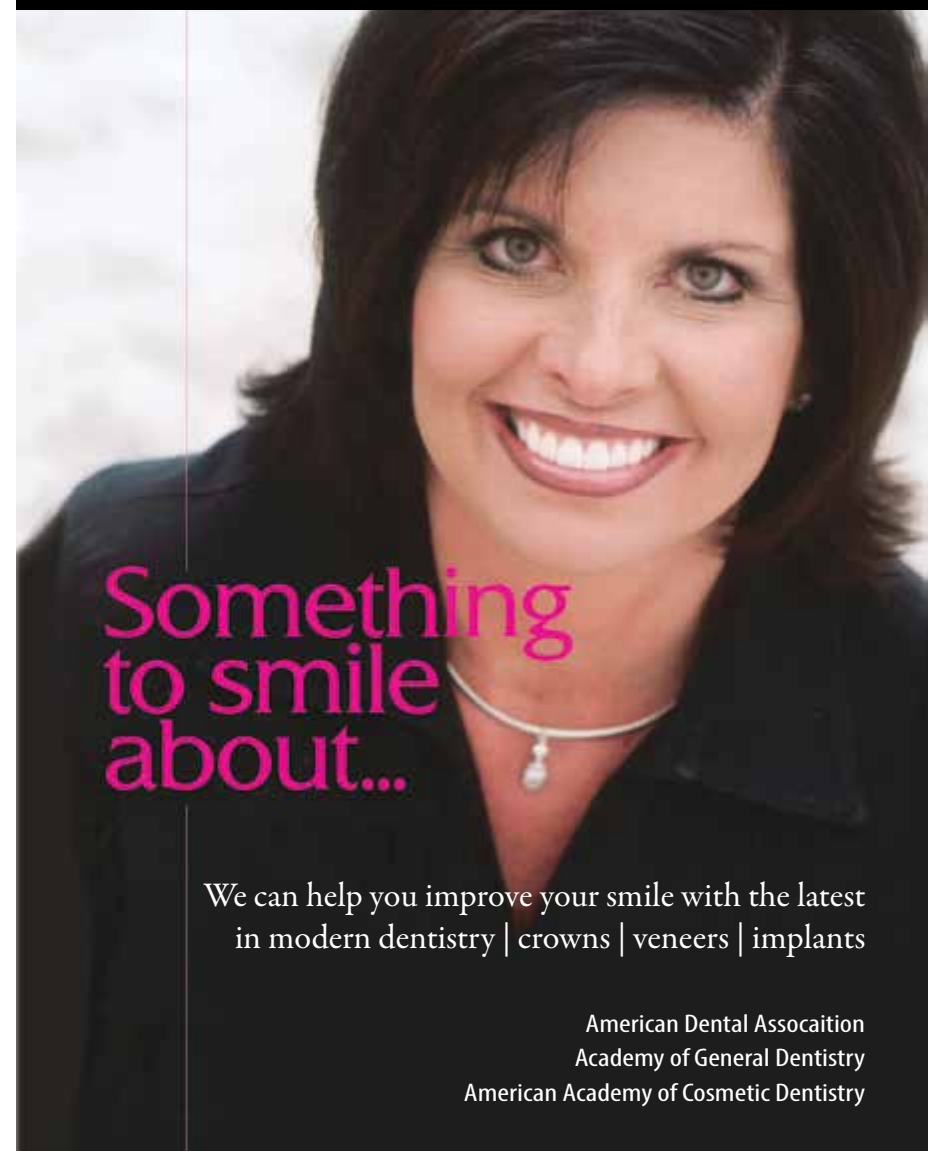
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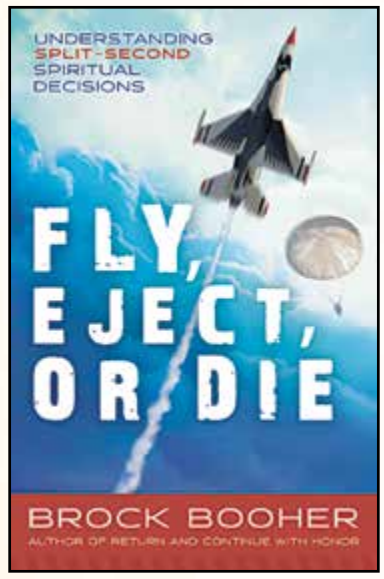
Spiritual Split-Second DECISIONS:

FLY, EJECT, OR DIE

By Cindy R. Williams
The Arizona Beehive

Beehive BOOK REVIEW

Brock Booher is touted as an author of clean fiction and nonfiction meant to entertain and inspire. His latest book, *Fly, Eject, or Die* meets all of these criteria.


UNDERSTANDING SPLIT-SECOND SPIRITUAL DECISIONS
FLY, EJECT, OR DIE
BROCK BOOHER
AUTHOR OF RETURN AND CONTINUE WITH HONOR

Cover of *Fly, Eject, or Die.*

At ten years of age, while out working in the fields of the family farm, a military jet did a low fly-by, shrieking just above his head. At that moment Booher decided flying was more fun than farming, and after graduating from BYU he became a pilot in the Air Force. Later he transitioned to commercial flying in the Boeing 737.

In *Fly, Eject, or Die*, Booher uses his unique experiences as a fighter pilot to create an exciting, inspiring and uplifting book on the importance of being prepared to make life's tough decisions that face all of us. The book teaches clear life skills, as is evident in the chapter headings: The Ejection Decision, Ejection Training, Why Agency? Using Our Agency Effectively, The Agency Checklist, Agency Training, and What Happens If You Crash?

According to the back-of-the-book blurb: "In the high-speed world of the fighter pilot, milliseconds can be the difference between life and death. Only when you've practiced, prepared, and predetermined what do in a crisis can you react quickly enough to fly the plane out of the situation or eject if need be. Likewise, we often face critical spiritual decision with only moments to make a choice.

"Professional pilot and youth speaker Brock Booher helps us recognize and learn to responsibly use the most enabling tool we possess—moral agency. By building spiritual muscle memory, we can expertly exercise it in the milliseconds leading to the smallest or most important decisions in our lives.

"Don't live on autopilot. When mishaps and tough choices inevitably come your way, *Fly Eject, or Die* helps you to prepare now so that in the moment, faith will overcome fear and you can soar through any obstacles this earth life may hurl at you."

Photo by Brian Powell

Brock Booher, author of *Fly, Eject, or Die*

Booher is also the author of *Return and Continue with Honor*. He is published by CFI, an imprint of Cedar Fort. For more information, or to contact Booher, go to www.brockbooher.com or find him on Facebook or Twitter.

LDS PIONEER BOOK TAKES READERS

In Their Footsteps

Beehive BOOK REVIEW

By Merry Gordon
The Arizona Beehive

Alex Haley, author of *Roots*, once said, "The family is our refuge and our springboard; nourished on it, we can advance to new horizons."

For Latter-day Saints, this rings especially true, and Dr. Donald G. Godfrey's book, *In Their Footsteps: Mormon Pioneers of Faith* (Deseret Book, 2018), helps put that quote in perspective.

Godfrey's work looks at the pioneering lives of the Joseph Godfrey and Charles Ora Card families, beginning in Liverpool, England. They travel from the Eastern states to Nauvoo and Utah, and eventually settle in Canada (the first Mormon community, in fact). The family grows. The Godfreys are uprooted and put down roots, make do with next to nothing, and leave their mark not only as Latter-day Saints, but as citizens.

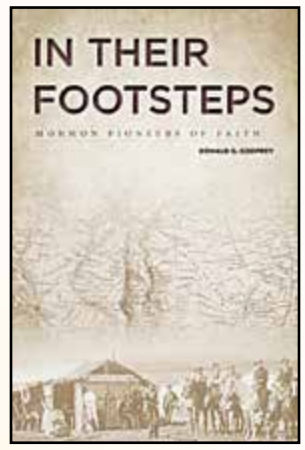


Photo courtesy of BYU

Godfrey's book highlights important Mormon pioneer families who made an impact on both church and community.

While many pioneer stories cover only the trek across the plains, Godfrey's is notably different in its scope. Godfrey's book takes a risk in providing a sweeping panorama and broader definition of the pioneer experience—the narrative spans the mid-Victorian Era at the height of Britain's industrial age and brings the family across the plains to America, continuing up through the 1990s.

However, the reader never feels lost in the vast history. Stories give sparkling personality to people who would otherwise be dates on a genealogical chart, as this 1986 gem from the journal of Floyd Godfrey (the author's father) shows: "I hate this arthritis in my left knee (my companion for 40 years). I love modesty. I like pretty women (unless they smoke)."

Godfrey's ancestors do the expected (is there any pioneer narrative in which someone doesn't cross the plains barefoot?), but also the unexpected, as tales recount the same Floyd Godfrey biting a hole through his tongue in his youth and later "grossing out his children and grandchildren" by pulling it out with his thumb and forefinger. In these moments, Godfrey's subjects truly shine.

Photo courtesy of BYU

Donald G. Godfrey, PhD, author of *In Their Footsteps: Mormon Pioneers of Faith*, is a professor emeritus of the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University.

In Their Footsteps covers moments of simple faith and spiritual triumph common to the early church, such as facing persecution with grace and accepting mission calls in a time when anti-Mormon sentiment was rife. It also focuses on modern spiritual moments, like Floyd Godfrey's experience as a bishop giving marital counsel to struggling couples, and falling in love with the Taiwanese people during his time there as a senior missionary with his wife.

Refreshingly, the book doesn't shy away from stories that often get sanitized or watered down in LDS narratives. Godfrey deals frankly with abuse, adultery and divorce (without delving into lurid detail), humanizing his subjects with trials that seem more familiar to a modern audience than handcarts and cholera. While Godfrey does not dwell on such subjects, choosing to tell the whole truth gives depth and resonance to his ancestors.

In Their Footsteps: Mormon Pioneers of Faith is available at Deseret Book and Amazon.

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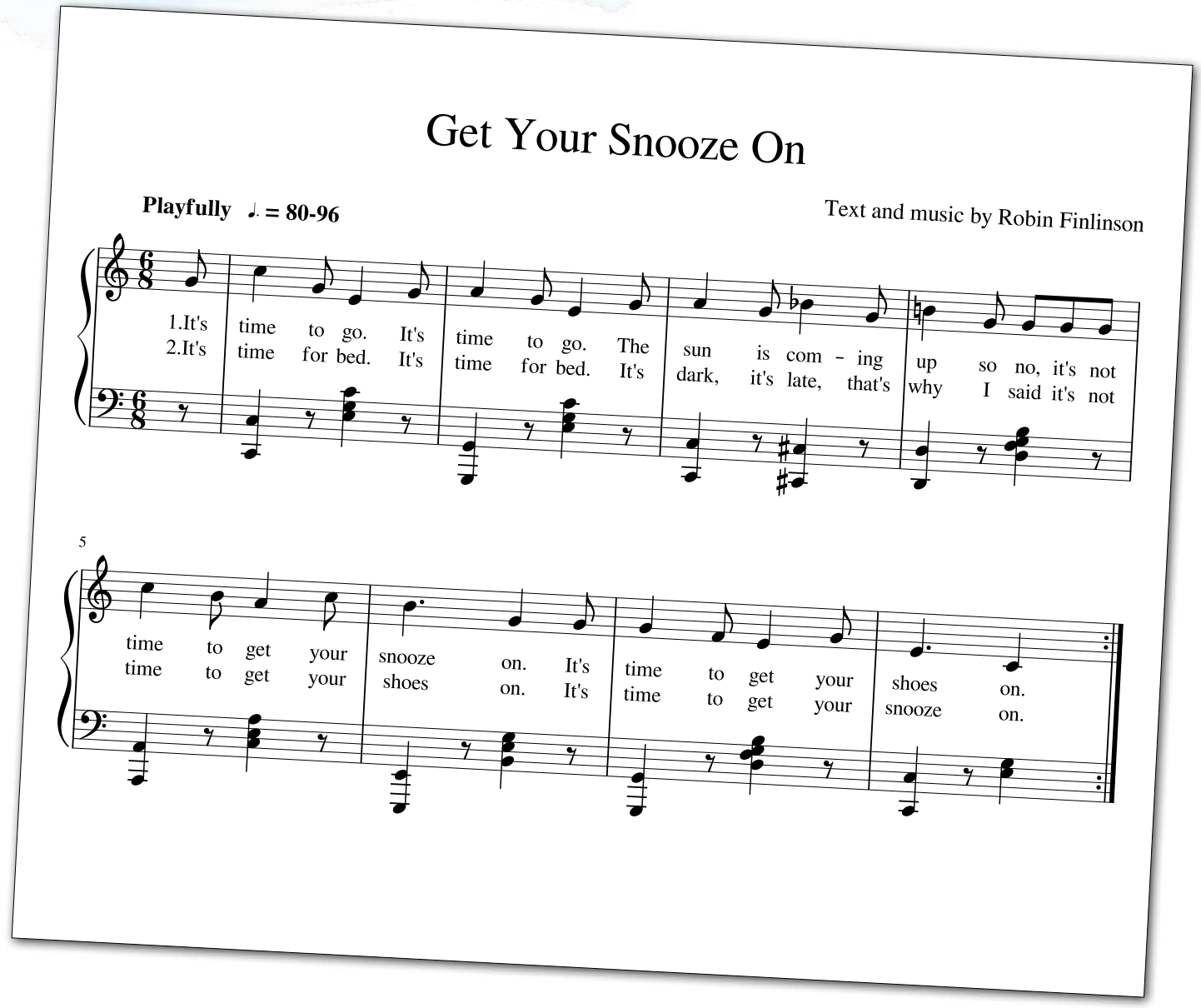
F♥H♥E Corner

By Robin Finlinson
The Arizona Beehive

Enjoy the Remarkable Blessings of Getting to Bed & Arising Early

Family Home Evening is a good time to discover the compelling wisdom regarding sleep found in Doctrine and Covenants 88:124. I suggest reading that verse and the July 2015 article at lds.org titled “Filled with Life and Energy” by Randal A. Wright. Next, counsel together about how your family can help each other to follow the scripture’s direction as much as possible, given your individual situations.

I also offer this lively song. The first verse is meant to be sung in the morning, when sleepy bodies long to stay in bed. The second is for nighttime, when, as so often happens, little bodies want nothing to do with bedtime.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Text and music by Robin Finlinson
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2.It's time for bed. It's time for bed. It's dark, it's late, that's why I said it's not
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time to get your snooze on. It's time to get your shoes on.
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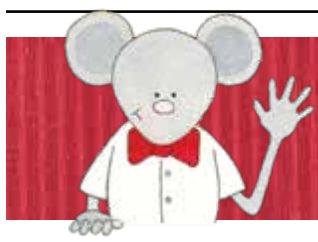

Norman the Mormon

How many Normans can you find in this issue? Let us know on our Instagram or Facebook pages. You just might receive a prize in the mail if you find him!

The Trip of a Lifetime!

Cruise to the Rome Temple Open House!

Feb 2 – Feb 12, 2019

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Rendering of the Temple West Entry

Major Renovations Commence
for the Mesa Arizona Temple

By Jennifer Wheeler,
Metro Phoenix Media Specialist
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

The October/November 2017 issue of *The Arizona Beehive* featured an article announcing plans for major renovations for the historic Mesa Arizona Temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Plan details were released May 10, 2018, just days before the temple was scheduled to close for the two-year renovation. The public will be invited to tour the renovated building when it is reopened, which is expected in 2020.

The 75,000-square-foot temple will undergo extensive work, including site improvements, exterior maintenance, interior finishes and building system maintenance for HVAC systems. The temple grounds will also be renovated and enhanced.

As part of the renovation, the Visitors' Center will be demolished, and a new center will be built across the street on the southwest corner of LeSueur and Main Street. It will be home to various interactive exhibits and events, historical information about the temple, and family history research and teaching facilities.

This is the second renovation for the 91-year-old temple. It was rededicated in 1975 by President Spencer W. Kimball following refurbishment. It was originally dedicated by President Heber J. Grant in 1927. Early newspaper descriptions of the site called it "an oasis in the desert."

The temple was designed in a neoclassical style by architects Ramm Hansen and Don Carlos Young. Church design teams are preserving and, in some cases, returning to this original design as part of the renovations. Special care will be taken to protect the historic murals throughout the temple, and new murals will be added in some locations to complement the originals.

The temple is one of six in Arizona and has become a center for holiday celebrations in Mesa. What began as an Easter sunrise service on top of a cotton wagon in 1938 is now a major Easter pageant for the community on the temple grounds. For almost 40 years, thousands of visitors have also made a tradition of touring the temple grounds each Christmas to view the hundreds of thousands of decorative lights and displays that focus on the birth of the Savior as well as listen to the community choirs.

Because of this, the temple site will be improved to better accommodate the annual Easter pageant and make the area more accessible and enjoyable with new paths and walkways for guests.

For more details and renderings of the final work, please visit our website www.ArizonaBeehive.com

Mesa Arizona Temple Renovation Facts:

- This is the second renovation for the 91-year-old temple in Mesa. It was rededicated in 1975 by President Spencer W. Kimball following refurbishment. It was originally dedicated by President Heber J. Grant in 1927.
- The new renovations will include site improvements, exterior maintenance, interior finishes and building system maintenance for heating, ventilation, air conditioning and electrical systems.
- The temple was originally designed in a neoclassical style by architects Ramm Hansen and Don Carlos Young. Church design teams are preserving and, in some cases, returning to this original design.
- Improvements throughout the interior of the temple will bring more consistency with the historic character and feel of the original design. Special care is being taken to clean and protect historic murals throughout the temple. Murals are also being added in some locations to complement the originals.
- Improvements will be made where possible to make the temple more accessible to those with disabilities.
- Roofing and drainage systems will be replaced.
- Windows will be replaced to provide better temperature control and be more energy efficient while keeping the look and character of the historic windows.
- The temple grounds will also undergo a major renovation to be more consistent with the character of the landscape design immediately around the temple. Efforts are being made to preserve the shade trees and the garden feel of the grounds, while also introducing additional garden areas.
- The visitors' center and the water feature to the north of the temple will be replaced with a new reflection pool and side gardens, opening the view toward Main Street. The site will also be improved to better accommodate the Easter pageant and make the area more enjoyable to walk the rest of the year with the inclusion of additional paths and walkways.
- The reflection pool at the temple entrance will be repaired in its current location.
- The new combined FamilySearch Center and Temple Visitor Center will be conveniently located on the southwest corner of LeSueur and Main Street. It will be home to various interactive exhibits and events, historical information about the temple, as well as family history research and teaching facilities. The facility will be free and open to the public.

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COOKING WITH the BEEHIVE

By Rachael Fuller
The Arizona Beehive

The Wonderffle Waffle

Stuffed waffle

Wonderffle iron in action

I don't know about everyone else, but my family becomes obsessed about a particular food from time to time. Our current obsession is the humble waffle.

With the help of an amazing recipe and our new favorite kitchen gadget, we have elevated this unassuming breakfast food to a magical, delightful, fascinating item that can and should be enjoyed at any meal.

First, we use a very special waffle iron called the Wonderffle. This amazing cast iron waffle iron lets you stuff your waffles and still have them coming out cooked all the way through, golden and crispy. We love filling our waffles with savory items such as bacon and sharp cheddar cheese or chicken nuggets and hot sauce.

On the sweet side, we have experimented with a buttery cinnamon sugar mix and peanut butter and jelly. So far, we have never been disappointed.

The wonderful thing about waffles is you can top them with whatever tickles your fancy that day or night. This recipe can also be made in a regular waffle iron. Be adventurous and top them with cheese or some chocolate chips (my daughter's favorite). This is an easy and delicious treat. Enjoy!

If you would like more information about the Wonderffle Waffle Iron, visit their website at https://www.wonderffle.com/

Classic Buttermilk Waffles

Recipe Courtesy of Mel's Kitchen Café

Ingredients

- 2 large eggs
- 1 3/4 cups (14 ounces buttermilk)
- 4 tablespoons butter, melted and cooled to room temperature
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1 1/2 cups (7.25 ounces) all-purpose flour
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt

Directions

1. In a medium-sized bowl, beat together the eggs, buttermilk, melted butter, and vanilla.
2. In another bowl, whisk together, the dry ingredients; combine the wet and dry ingredients just until smooth.
3. For a regular waffle iron use about 1/3-1/2 cup of batter. Make sure you spray your waffle iron to prevent sticking.
4. If adding toppings, pour batter in first, then add toppings and close iron. Wait 2-3 minutes per waffle or until your iron stops steaming.

Beauty Trends

Modest & Comfortable

Finding Swim Suits to Suit Your Family

By Emily Jex Boyle
The Arizona Beehive

I remember the story. It involved magazines featuring Volkswagen bugs, scantily dressed models and my cousin's awesome observation: "Those ladies are all wearing zucchinis!" We all laughed.

As a mother with a quiver full of daughters, outfitting our family with gear for Arizona summer survival is a daunting adventure. For me, swimming as much as possible is how we make it through summer. For teenage daughters, finding swimwear can be tricky. For the pre-teens, it seems a little easier to find good deals along with enough variety at local big boxes. Searching for just the right swimsuit feels much like the fabled image of seeking out the needle in the haystack. Some suggestions for those of you who struggle to pin down what "modest" and "comfortable" mean for you and your family.

Shopping for "modest" and "comfortable" swimwear amid the ocean of options can seem intimidating. Fortunately, the increased use of social media and online shopping have created more and more available options, depending on what type of swimsuit you seek.

When scouting out your next swimsuit, for you or your family members, consider "web window shopping" at some of the following stores:

Wren and Ivory $$$ (www.wrenandivory.com) This Arizona-based company strives to make fashion and style easily accessible and delivered right to your door.

Albion $$$ (www.albionfit.com) This Utah-based company offers luxurious, flattering, and hassle-free swimwear.

Backyard Buffalo $ (www.backyardbuffalo.com) This online pop up store showcases individual companies and their newest items. Great deals!

Kortni Jeane $$ (www.kortnijeane.com) A Utah-based company that focuses on finding the best fit for your body and personality without breaking the bank.

Journey Five $$ (www.journeyfive.com) Another Utah-based company that offers modest swimwear.

Photo courtesy of Ashleigh Cramer

Outfitting your family with swim wear for Arizona summer survival is a daunting adventure.

Lime Ricki $$ (www.limericki.com) An additional Utah-based company has a mission to help empower women of every age to feel confident and comfortable in swimwear.

In Margery Bianco's book The Velveteen Rabbit, the narrator describes the rabbit: "He didn't mind how he looked to other people, because the nursery magic had made him Real..."

Modesty, personal comfort and keeping it "real" is personally defined. May this list help you find lesser-known businesses from which to choose where modesty and your family's comfort in swimwear come together.

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written by Jodi Flake

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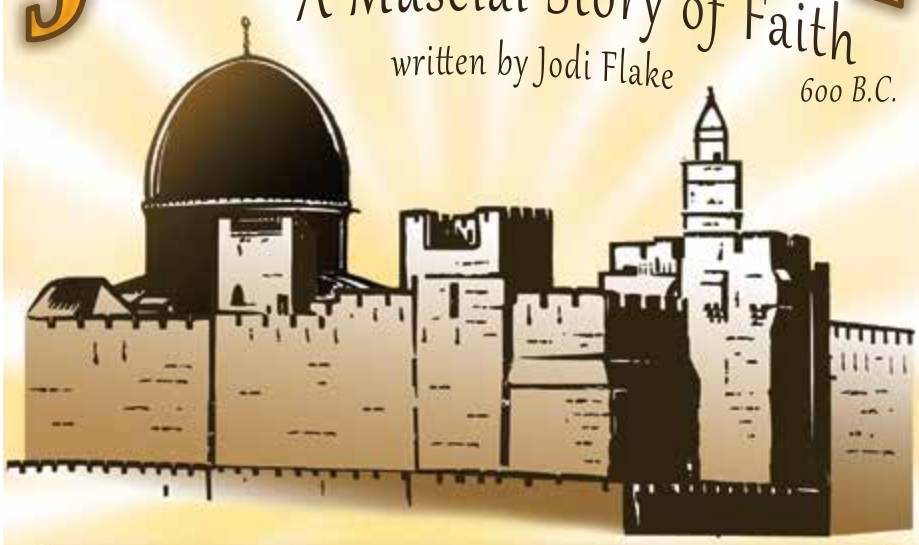

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DARYL EVERETT GOVE

May 4, 1978 – March 5, 2018

Daryl Everett Gove, 39, of Mesa AZ, returned to his loving Heavenly Father on March 5, 2018. His exuberance, love of live, extremely quick wit and huge heart were known to all who had the joy of being within his presence. Daryl was a kind and generous old soul. His greatest joy was his family and serving others. He could often be found watching John Wayne westerns, Star Wars, NCIS and paintball videos.

Daryl returned to his church roots, and after his move from NH to AZ in 2014 he eventually met the love of his life and forever soul mate, Lacey Bendixsen. They were married in January 2015 and sealed for all of time and eternity with their son, Griffin, in the Gilbert, AZ LDS Temple on March 12, 2016.

He is predeceased by his father, Robert "Skip" Gove; his grandparents, Robert and Muriel Gove, Joseph and Marian Landry, and step-brother, Paul Lacaillade. He is survived by his bride, Lacey Gove and their 2 year old son, Griffin; his beloved children from a previous marriage, David, Valerie, Dylan, and Lillian of North Carolina; his dad and mom, Dan and Patti Herrick; siblings, Sarah Snowden, Kaytlyn Constantinou, Eryn Haugen, and Chelsea Gove.

Daryl expressed it best commenting on a picture of his beloved Son Griffin: "I cannot define or express the complete and total love I have for this boy. It is all encompassing and unending. He is my joy, my pride, my Son. If even a millionth part of the love I feel is the love that our Father in Heaven holds for all of us, how sweet and miraculous it is and what a gift that love is for us all. I am grateful for my Son, for my Wife that blessed our family with him and for my family that I KNOW is Eternal and will ALWAYS be together."

Graveside Services were held March 10, 2018 at the Mesa Cemetery. I will miss and love you forever babe!!!

Marshmallow Therapy

Local Gilbert Dessert Shop Offers New Twist on a Classic Treat

By Emily Jex Boyle
The Arizona Beehive

As you step into this delicious shop, a tangible sweetness envelops you. If there is one place in Arizona where I'd consider the likelihood of absorbing sugar by osmosis, I'd expect it to be at the Toasted Mallow, a dessert shop in Gilbert located just off of Gilbert and the US-60. I really wouldn't be surprised one bit if my caloric intake went up just by breathing.

My daughters spotted the daily special and their minds were made up: the *Unicorn S'more*, a combination of toasted marshmallows in a graham cracker bowl, topped with a clump of cotton candy, multi-colored sprinkles, and purple ganache. The menu offers other delicious s'mores like the *Elvis* (toasted peanut butter marshmallows, fresh bananas, drizzled with peanut butter and chocolate ganache) or the *Samoa* (toasted vanilla bean marshmallows, caramel, toasted coconut and chocolate ganache). And the list goes on!

Tricia and Hazel Arce, owners of the Toasted Mallow, started making marshmallows about six years ago. Tricia's grandmother had recently passed away and as her main caregiver, she grieved. After she was gone, Tricia explains, "I felt lost."

She worked at Bass Pro Shops, putting in long hours to bury herself in work. When she and her coworkers conducted bakeoffs, Tricia found that many of the recipes she made called for marshmallow. Since she wasn't a fan of store-bought marshmallows, she decided to try making them from scratch. Pretty soon, Tricia and Hazel were experimenting with various flavors of marshmallows in the kitchen.

Tricia gradually realized something along the way—making marshmallows was her therapy.

"When I made marshmallows, they filled my heart," Tricia says! The rest is history.

Now, nearly every day, Tricia and her team handcraft small batches of marshmallows for their dessert shop as well as their online store. Toasted Mallow marshmallows are handmade and hand-cut (bigger than the average store-bought) and made of cane sugar, egg whites, salt and kosher gelatin. They offer over 35 flavors. Each mallow is 100% corn syrup free and made with kosher ingredients. The store also offers a large selection of gluten-free marshmallows, as well custom items such as dairy-free, egg- free and nut-free varieties, and marshmallows without artificial colors. Marshmallows are made to order—mixed, set, cut, packaged and labeled in order to arrive within 4-5 business days across the country ready to be enjoyed.

Marshmallows from the Toasted Mallow are best if consumed within 1-3 weeks. You can also find Toasted Mallow out and about at various October through April farmers markets and other special events.

Toasted Mallow is open Monday - Thursday 11am - 8pm, Friday & Saturday 11am - 9pm. Closed on Sunday. 1034 N Gilbert Rd #3, Gilbert Encinas Plaza, Gilbert, AZ 85234.

Photo courtesy of Tricia Arce

Made to order right in front of you, Toasted Mallow s'mores, like the Banana Split and others, are sure to satisfy any sweet tooth.

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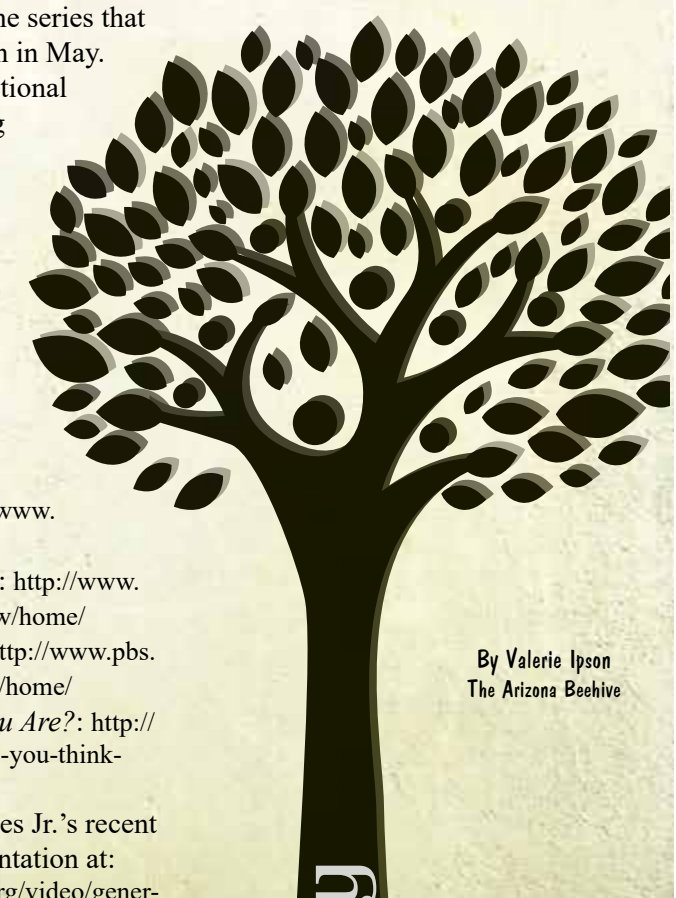
genealogy TV

New TV shows celebrate the joy of family history

Image via Creative Commons

The "grandfather" of a modern flat-screen television. Television programs can help you trace your family history.



By Valerie Ipson
The Arizona Beehive

Reality television meets family history in BYUtv's competitive, family-finding program, *Relative Race*. The unscripted series, which recently aired its third season, follows four teams in search of relatives they have never met, but with whom they share DNA. By tackling clues, challenges, and our country's interstate freeways, they eventually meet their family members face to face, all over a ten-day 'race.' Some discover distant cousins, but some find pieces of themselves as they meet biological parents and siblings. Finding family is the true emotional payoff in this series, but a bonus is the chance to finish first and win $50,000.

Relative Race is not the only family history-based television series on the air. Over the last six years PBS has introduced *Genealogy Roadshow* and *Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates Jr*. TLC currently airs the popular *Who Do You Think You Are?*

Genealogy Roadshow bills itself as "part detective story and part emotional journey." It features people from a variety of cities—people who want to explore family myths and stories that have been passed down through the generations, in particular, stories that may connect them with famous Americans or historic events. Experts use DNA, family heirlooms, pictures, letters, and historical documents to uncover the truth. Even local historians get involved and some of the answers are revealed at sites relevant to the city where events took place.

Each episode of *Finding Your Roots* highlights three celebrities and their family histories. They untangle family myths, uncover secrets, and often find connections to famous (or infamous) people and historical events through a paper trail and DNA. Harvard professor Henry Louis Gates Jr. admits his quest is to "get into the DNA of American culture." He has deep roots in genealogical-programming with shows like *African American Lives* and *Faces of America,* which were precursors to *Finding Your Roots.*

Who Do You Think You Are? also focuses on celebrities, with each of its episodes generally following one line of an individual's family tree. The subject travels from place to place, often overseas if that's where the research takes them. They learn about their ancestors with the help of trained genealogists and historians at libraries, cemeteries, archives and the like. Ancestry.com is part producer of the series that premiered its tenth season in May.

As we follow the emotional journeys of others finding their roots and making connections with ancestors they once knew very little about, the spirit of Elijah can kindle similar desires in us to begin our own family history journeys.

Where to view these series:

Relative Race: https://www.byutv.org/relativerace

Genealogy Roadshow: http://www.pbs.org/genealogy-roadshow/home/

Finding Your Roots: http://www.pbs.org/weta/finding-your-roots/home/

Who Do You Think You Are?: http://www.tlc.com/tlcme/who-do-you-think-you-are-returns/

Find Henry Louis Gates Jr.'s recent RootsTech keynote presentation at:

https://www.rootstech.org/video/general-session-2018-dr-henry-louis-gates-jr

family HISTORY

Dr. Jeff Fenn, a Queen Creek resident has opened an "Extraction-Only" dental practice in San Tan Valley!

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The Arizona Beehive ON THE SCENE

Personal Connections

BYU Fan Fest Engages Over 3,500 Fans in Mesa

By Robin Finlinson
The Arizona Beehive

Mesa's Pioneer Park bustled with activity on May 5th as it hosted BYU Fan Fest.

What is the BYU Fan Fest? It's about personal connections.

"Our main focus is to connect and engage our fans with our student athletes," said David Almodova, assistant athletic director over marketing. "Our teams play all over the country, but our fans are never able to engage with them at the games."

BYU coaches, cheerleaders, and twenty athletes shared time with their fans by shaking hands, signing posters, and talking face to face with the public.

Women's basketball, volleyball, gymnastics and soccer each had two representatives, including volleyball's star outside hitter Roni Jones-Perry.

BYU teams have several Arizona connections. Mo Langi, who served a mission in Phoenix, as well as Mitch Harris from Gilbert and Matt Bushman from Tucson, were among the eleven football players present. Payton Dastrup from Mesa represented men's basketball.

Lee Cummard, former student athlete hired in April as BYU's Assistant Basketball Coach, is also from Mesa. Impressed by the turnout of his first Fan Fest, Cummard said, "I have a lot of family in the area. Having them able to experience the culture of BYU with me is exciting."

Though the temperature soared 10 degrees hotter than average for the day, it is estimated that over 3,500 fans participated. Not surprisingly, BYU Creamery sold out of the 620 cups of ice cream they'd brought. Ice cold water and kettle corn refreshed many attendees, as did

Y-shaped donuts provided by the Phoenix chapter of the BYU Alumni Association.

Several activities spread families around so that lines to meet athletes were not too long. Children threw footballs and basketballs into giant inflatables, ran in short races, had their faces painted, and lounged on an enormous inflated bouncy chair. T-shirts and other popular items were purchased at the onsite BYU store.

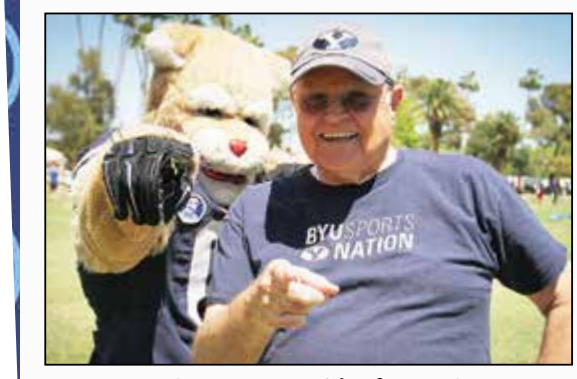
Fans watched BYU Sports Nation broadcast live from the park. One of the first fans to arrive was Marjorie Marz, who was happy to give large stacks of handmade burp cloths, including some made with BYU-print material, to announcers Spencer Linton and Jarom Jordan. "You really do watch the show!" exclaimed Linton. Marz knew that his third child had just been born, and that Jordan is expecting his second. Both papas were grateful for their gifts.

While defensive end Corbin Kaufusi stood by a back drop for photo ops, two missionaries approached him. Kaufusi was glad they did. One of the missionaries, Elder Fitisemanu from Hawaii, is his best friend's cousin. They'd seen each other in pictures but had never met.

As the final attendees were departing, and seconds before Cosmo jumped into a truck to leave, one particular fan, Ken Driggs, got to shake Cosmo's paw. A Mesa resident since the late '60s, Driggs donned the BYU mascot costume during the 1965-66 school year. "I had an absolute blast!" he recalled. He is amazed by the athleticism of today's Cosmo. Even back then, he admits, he didn't have the gymnastic and dance skills we see these days.

Goodbye for now, BYU athletes. We'll see some of you in September when football takes on U of A!

BYU fans pose with copies of *The Arizona Beehive*.



BYU mascot Cosmo poses with a former Cosmo, Ken Driggs.

Football's Corbin Kaufusi takes a selfie with Elders Fitisemanu and Simpson.

The Chipman family gets posters signed by football players, including Mitch Harris from Gilbert.

Fans attempt to throw a football through a small circle in an enormous inflatable.

Mesa Mayor John Giles with announcers Spencer Linton (left) and Jarom Jordan (middle), just before he becomes part of the live broadcast of BYU Sports Nation from Pioneer Park.

BYU Sports Nation fan Marjorie Marz gives handmade gifts to announcers Spencer Linton and Jarom Jordan.

The Finlinson family poses with volleyball players Roni Jones-Perry (left) and Lacy Haddock.

All photos by Robin Finlinson, The Arizona Beehive.

Giving Back

By Allison Beckert
The Arizona Beehive

I Don't Believe In Miracles, I Rely On Them!

LDS Cancer "Thriver's" Journey of Faith

According to data from the US National Cancer Institute, nearly 40% of people will develop cancer. Fewer than 200,000 people in the U.S. are diagnosed with trigeminal neuralgia, a chronic condition producing some of the worst pain a human can experience. Brenda Farris has both, yet she is a pillar of spiritual strength and vitality.

In October 2015, Brenda and her husband Larry researched cancer. Larry was considering an investment in diagnostic technology, but Brenda joined in, realizing someone she knew may have that battle ahead. At a demonstration of the diagnostic machine, she volunteered to participate. The results were unexpected—and very clear.

"As soon as you're on the cancer track," she explains, "you're just pushed along." That early research was a blessing during treatment. "You have to pause a little bit and think."

With the support of her family, Brenda carefully considered each step in her treatment. Guided by faith and armed with research, she endured two surgeries and ongoing tests. Her cancer was mobile, active in her system, and resistant to chemotherapy. Encouraged by research on drug-resistant cancers' response to a healthful lifestyle, Brenda increased her effort to treat her struggling body right.

Faith is essential in this path, especially when implementing instruction from section 89 of the Doctrine and Covenants. Prophets testify of the Word of Wisdom's power, and when Brenda turned her focus on the "do" instructions (in addition to the "don't" items), she leapt forward in her journey. "I don't believe in miracles. I rely on them," she says with conviction. She's quick to say her success didn't come all at once: "It's taken 12 years to get where I am. It's line upon line. Make one change today, and add another thing down the road."

Those touched by serious illness know support is necessary. This often results in powerful connections, new relationships, and unique opportunities. Brenda lists members of her support team with great love, marveling at the opportunities given her. One lesson she learned: "Everyone is going through something hard. I'm really happy to share my story, and everyone's story helps me." Some opportunities have been more public. Her husband Larry won the 2017 Arizona Midday Hometown Hero contest, and they shared the prize with those who support them.

Brenda also enjoys being active. When she ran the Warriors Dash in Oregon this May, her brother, Baron, spent months gearing up Team Brenda. These supporters created a community, helping fund her treatment plan with the purchase of Team Brenda shirts and donations to a GoFundMe campaign.

"I am just so humbled," she says. "They hadn't even met me, and they were willing to support and love on me."

Diseases like cancer and chronic pain conditions can be isolating, and every person's experience is unique. When asked what people could do to support those struggling, Brenda emphasized how needs can change.

"Be kind," she explains. "Be patient and give grace."

If you'd like to donate to Brenda's GoFundMe Campaign, visit https://www.gofundme.com/HelpTeamBrenda. If you're interested in purchasing a Team Brenda shirt, leave a comment on the campaign page.

Photo ourtesy of Brenda Farris

Brenda and Larry Farris

Photo ourtesy of Brenda Farris

Brenda and Larry Farris at 12 News' Arizona Midday hometown hero showing of Spiderman: Homecoming.

Photo ourtesy of Brenda Farris

Brenda Farris and her green drink, rich in cancer fighting vitamins.

VALLEY TEMPLE SCHEDULES

Mesa Arizona Temple

101 S. LeSueur, Mesa, AZ, 852014
(480) 833-1211

2018 Temple Closures
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3301 S. Greenfield Rd, Gilbert, AZ, 85297
(480) 822-5000

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Distribution center: Inside nearby Deseret Book Store: 2894 S. San Tan Village Pkwy #103, Gilbert

Endowment Sessions
Tuesday - Saturday: Every 45 minutes from 5:30am – 7:00pm
Last daily session at 7:30pm
Spanish Sessions: Tuesday, 7:30pm; Saturday, 8:30am

2018 Temple Closures
Monday, March 12, 2018 – Monday, March 26, 2018
Saturday, March 31, 2018
Tuesday, July 3, 2018 – Wednesday, July 4, 2018
Monday, October 1, 2018 – Monday, October 15, 2018
Wednesday, November 21, 2018 (Limited Hours)
Thursday, November 22, 2018
Tuesday, December 25, 2018
Wednesday, December 26, 2018

Phoenix Arizona Temple

5220 W. Pinnacle Peak Road, Phoenix, AZ 85301
(623) 474-9500

Services
No clothing rental, no cafeteria, no patron housing available
No distribution center nearby

Endowment Sessions
Tuesday a.m.: 7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am
Tuesday p.m.: 4:30pm, 6:00pm, 7:30pm

Wednesday a.m.: 6:00am, 7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am
Wednesday p.m.: 4:30pm, 6:00pm, 7:30pm

Thursday a.m.: 7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am
Thursday p.m.: 4:30pm, 6:00pm, 7:30pm

Friday a.m.: 7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am
Friday p.m.: 12:00pm, 1:30pm, 3:00pm, 4:30pm, 6:00pm, 7:30pm

Saturday a.m.: 6:00am, 7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am,
Saturday p.m.: 12:00pm, 1:30pm, 3:00pm, 4:30pm, 6:00pm

Spanish Sessions: Tuesday, 7:30pm; Saturday, 7:30am

2018 Temple Closures
Saturday, March 31, 2018
Monday, May 14, 2018 – Monday, May 28, 2018
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